

EXCISE

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DESIGN/ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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A-218 NO. CONFIDENTIAL

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : CINCSO FOR POLAD, Amembassy TEGUCIGALPA, SAN SALVADOR, MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, DOD

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE December 16, 1967

SUBJECT : Weekly Internal Security Report: 12/14/67

BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
DEC 19 1967

REF :

DEC 21 1967

1. The week's most spectacular event was the more or less simultaneous outbreak of two or more major fires, which affected at least two of the capital's largest department stores and the offices of Guatel (Guatemala's Western Union), at about 9 P.M. on December 14. A few false alarms complicated the situation for the firemen and security forces who worked a good part of the night to quench the flames. Recently-kidnapped Enrique Engel's store on Guatemala's main commercial street was completely destroyed. Around midnight the government assured the populace by radio that the entire city was completely under control and ordered people to stay off the streets the rest of the night. Although rumors are rampant, what started it all remains a mystery at this writing.
2. The previous afternoon an army vehicle was fired on in violence-prone Zone 5 of the capital, and while the fires raged downtown, Zone 5 was the scene of an all-out search--so far in vain--for the perpetrators of the attack. Earlier in the week, two men beat up a National Policeman in the same zone; they were captured later.
3. Some twenty murders were committed or discovered this week, but only ten of these--and probably much fewer--were conceivably politically motivated. Four of the victims turned up in Escuintla Department. Only one bomb made the news for doing damage to a city supermarket. None of these apparent crimes have been solved.
4. Nor did the National Police capture whoever hit the 4th Corps Headquarters with a U.S. "anti-tank" rocket launched from a cardboard bazooka set

Enclosure: List of Incidents

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <i>caj</i>	DATE <i>7 OCT 1967</i>
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CLIFFE-PCR

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up on the neighboring police training field on December 7. Luckily, the protagonist forgot to unlatch the safety device, and the rocket did not explode. Police Chief Sosa Avila announced later that the assailants were "supposedly connected with the communists," and a handbill ostensibly from the FAR said the fizzled attack was meant only as a "last warning" to the police.

5. Meanwhile, the Judicial Police allegedly arrested 5 persons, including a San Carlos economics student, on December 8, and caused scores of people from the Economics Dean and student body (AEU) leadership on down to protest. Although Federico Lopez Alvarado, son of Congressman Lopez Duran, was freed from prison, the AEU celebrated Human Rights Day by demanding that the government produce 273 other long-imprisoned individuals. Interior Minister Mansilla Pinto replied that the majority were guerrillas, fugitives and "self-kidnapped" persons lying low. Archbishop Casariego promised the AEU, nonetheless, to look into the matter. [REDACTED] 13-1 EC

6. Apropos kidnapping, the Police announced this week that at least one presumed kidnapping had been arranged by the "victim" seeking to avoid a contractual obligation and that there were "other rather suspicious cases." However, they did not explain away the reported kidnapping of a Zacapa campesino from a Guatemala City bus station, and they captured 2 of 4 men accused of attempting to kidnap a comisionado militar in San Pedro Sacatepequez near the capital. (UNCLASSIFIED) [REDACTED] 31 EC

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LIST OF INCIDENTS

- Dec. 7 - 4th Corps Headquarters in Guatemala City hit by rocket launched by amateur from neighboring field. No casualties.
- 7 - Skeleton found in Escuintla
- 8 - Judicial Police allegedly captures Carlos Enrique Fuentes Jiménez, Economics student, and four others. Protests fail to produce results so far.
- 8 - Treasury (Hacienda) policeman Clemente Hernandez Suchin shot in Jutiapa, dies hours later. Assailant unidentified.
- 9 - Shot-up body found on road between San José Pinula and Mataquescuintla, southeast of capital.
- 9 - Shot-up, unidentified body found in Escuintla.
- 9 - Shot-up body of young man found in capital.
- 9 - AZU petitions Government to produce 273 alleged prisoners. Interior Minister denies number held that high.
- 10 - Man beat up and robbed in Zone 5. No suggestion of organizational work.
- 10 - Body found in Guazacapan, Santa Rosa
- 10 - Four persons try to kidnap comisionado militar in San Pedro Sacatepequez near capital, two captured Dec. 12.
- 11 - Police announce one recent kidnapping a hoax, others "rather suspicious."
- 11 - Policeman attacked by two men in Zone 5; assailants captured.
- 11 - One Samuel Pineda shot by unidentified gang at his home in Mataquescuintla, Jalapa.
- 11 - Unidentified men kill 62-year-old in El Progreso.
- 12 - Bomb of unknown provenience damages Guatemala City supermarket.
- 12 - Federico López Alvarado, son of Congressman López Durán, freed from prison.

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- Dec. 13 - Shot-up unidentified body found in Escuintla Department.
- 13 - Zacapa campesino kidnapped in capital bus station.
 - 13 - Man shot in Nueva Concepción, Escuintla. Unsolved.
 - 14 - Shot-up, mutilated unidentified body found in Los Amates, Izabal.
 - 14 - Police capture two responsible for one-year-old murder of Dionisio Mendoza in La Union, Zacapa.
 - 14 - Robbery in Zone 8 of capital. No sign of organizational work.
 - 14 - Man shot, probably for personal reasons, in Jutiapa.
 - 14 - Various fires rage in Guatemala City. Cause(s) uncertain.

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